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From Monday March 22. to Thursday March 25. 1697.

By the King,

A PROCLAMATION

For a General FAST.

WILLIAM R.

FOR *the Imploring a Bleſſing from Almighty God, upon His Majeſty, and all His Dominions, and for the Averting of thoſe Judgments which our manifold Sins and Provocations have moſt juſtly Deſerved, The Kings moſt Excellent Majeſty has thought fit, and doth (by the Advice of his Privy Council) hereby Appoint and Command, That a General Faſt, and Day of Solemn Humiliation be Kept and Obſerved throughout His Majeſties Realm of* England, *Dominion of* Wales, *and Town of* Berwick *upon* Tweed, *in moſt Devout and Solemn Manner, on* Wedneſday *the Twenty eighth Day of* April *next. And for the more orderly Solemnizing of the ſame, His Majeſty has given Directions to the Right Reverend the Biſhops of this Kingdom, to Compoſe a Form of Prayer Suitable to this Occaſion, to be uſed in all Churches and Chappels, and other Places of Publick Worſhip, and to take Care for the timely Diſperſing of the ſame through their ſeveral Dioceſes in the whole Kingdom. And His Majeſty doth ſtrictly Charge and Command, That the ſaid Faſtings and Prayers be Soberly, Reverently and Decently performed by all His Loving Subjects, as they tender the Favour of Almighty God, and upon Pain of ſuch Puniſhments as can juſtly be inflicted upon all ſuch as ſhall Contemn or Neglect ſo Religious a Work.*

Given at Our Court at *Kenſington* the Eighteenth Day of *March*, 169⅞. In the Ninth Year of Our Reign.

Meſſina, Febr. 18. N. S. Letters from *Malta* of the 8th Inſtant give an account of the Death of the Great Maſter *Vignacourt* on the 4th, and on the 7th Don *Raimondo Parillos*, a Spaniard, was choſen in his place. The *Trumbull* Galley from *Smirna* departed hence on the 12th Inſtant for *England*. The *Panther*, and the *Volkeren* a Dutch Privateer, are now in this Port.

Madrid, March 1. The King of *Spain* is perfectly recovered of his late Illneſs. Three Regiments of Foot, quartered in *Eſtremadura*, are ordered to march to *Catalonia*; and 1000 Horſes are bought up by order of the Court to remount our Cavalry there. The Letters from *Cadiz* of the 17th paſt give an account of the arrival of ſeveral Engliſh Ships in that Port; to wit, the *Blackham* Galley from *London*, the *Lawrence* Galley from *Bilboa*, the *William and James* from *Dublin*; and the *Mayflower* from *Ireland*. Several other Engliſh Ships are departed out of that Port, as the *Mary* for *Briſtol*, the *Richardſon* and *Flavel* Galleys for the *Canaries*, the *James* for *Alicant*, and the *Blacham* for *Smirna*.

Genoua, March 10. By a Veſſel from *Argiers* we have Advice, that the Emperor of *Morocco* marches with a great Army againſt that Government, to revenge the Spoil the Algerines made the laſt year within his Territories; They are fitting out at *Argiers* a Squadron of their Ships, which is to join the Turkiſh Fleet in the *Levant*.

Leghorne, March 11. The Great Duke came hither on the 19th Inſtant from *Piſa*, intending to paſs ſome time in this place. The *Mary-Roſe*, Capt. *Thomas Rogers*, arrived here about a fortnight ago from *Ireland*; and the *Hopewell*, Capt. *Boice*, from *Yarmouth*. The 3d Inſtant came in the *Blacham* Privateer, Capt. *Reggio* Commander; and the Ship called the *Prince John Gaſtone*, who departed hence the ſame day for *Venice*, returned into Port by reaſon of the Winds coming contrary. A French Ship commanded by Capt. *Roſſo*, arrived here this week, having had a ſhort Paſſage from *Alexandria*; where the *Cloudeſly* and *Slaughter* Galleys were both lading for *England*. This day ſailed out of this Road 5 Engliſh Ships, the *Bolton*, *Macclesfield*, *Rooke*, *Bridget*, and *Benadventure*, all homeward-bound.

Milan, March 12. A general Review was made the laſt week of all the Forces now in the Service of this State, and ſeveral Officers of Horſe and Foot are reformed. 'Tis diſcourſed, that two Italian Regiments of Foot, one of Suiſſers, and 12 Troops of Horſe, are to be ſent to *Catalonia*, and that Money has been remitted hither by the Viceroy of *Naples*, for this Service. The Marquis *de St. Thomas*, the Duke of *Savoy*'s Chief Miniſter, arrived here ſome days ago, and having had ſeveral Conferences with our Governor, returned to *Turin*. Our Governor is going to *Loretto*, to meet the Count *d'Altamira*, the Spaniſh Ambaſſador, reſiding at *Rome*, and ſome other Perſons of Quality, to confer with them about the publick Affairs.

Venice, March 15. A great Convoy will depart from hence the next week with Soldiers, Money, and Proviſions, for the *Levant*. The laſt Advices from thence ſay, that great preparations are making both by the Venetians and the Turks for the next Campagne. The *Ormond* Galley, Capt. *Robinſon*, is now under ſail for *Zeſſalonia* and *London*.

Vienna, March 16. Orders have been ſent to all the Emperor's Forces that are to ſerve this Summer againſt the Turks, to be in a readineſs to leave their Quarters by the middle of the next month, and the *Danube* being now clear of Ice, a great many Veſſels are lading here with Proviſions, Ammunition, and other Neceſſaries for the Imperial Army in *Hungary*: 'Tis expected the Emperor will now in few days declare the General Officers to command it: The Elector of *Saxony* is expected here preſently after *Eaſter*. Prince *Lewis* of *Baden* continues to have frequent Conferences with the Miniſters of this Court about the Affairs of *Germany*, and will return thither very ſuddenly. The Count *de Harach*, the Emperor's Miniſter to the Court of *Spain*, begun his Journey thither the laſt week; and the Biſhop of *Paſſau* prepares for his Embaſſy to *Poland*.

Francfort, March 24. The Deputies of the Circle of the *Upper-Rhine*, who met together in this place, are ſeparated, and gone home; They have reſolved to furniſh 5000 Men, to ſerve this Campagne in the Army of the Empire under the command of Prince *Lewis*; and to keep conſtantly on foot their Quota of the Troops, which, according to what was lately reſolved in the General Dyet of the Six Circles, are to be maintained as well in time of Peace as War; and to ſend Deputies, to the Treaty of a General Peace, on the behalf of the ſaid Circle. An other General Meeting of the Six Circles above-mentioned, is appointed here for the 15th of the next month.

Cologne, March 26. As the Spring advances, ſo the Preparations are haſtned for the Campagne; The Forces of the Allies have Orders to be ready to take the Field upon the firſt Command; General *Toungen*, who has been to view them at their ſeveral Quarters, is returned to *Mentz*, of which he is Governor; and he is taking care to put that place into the beſt poſture of Defence that may be; The like is done at *Coblentz*; and 4000 Munſteriens are on their march, in order to poſt themſelves near the laſt of theſe places, that they may be in a readineſs to reinforce that Gariſon, or to march farther as there may be occaſion. The Allies are building ſeveral Forts on the River *Maine*, between *Mentz*, *Francfort*, and *Aſchaffenburg*; and have likewiſe caſt up Works in ſeveral little Iſlands in the *Rhine*, and in other places, to defend the Paſſage of this River. The French at the ſame time make great Magazines at *Landaw*, *Philipsburg*, and other Frontier Gariſons, and their Troops quartered in *Burgundy*, and other remote Places, begin to move towards *Alſace*. The Deputies of the Circle of *Weſtphalia* are moſt of them arrived in order to their meeting in this City. The *Brandenburg* Forces quartered in this Country, are ordered to march towards the *Meuſe*.

Hamburgh,